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miraculous outblossing of a genius that had previously given no sign, but that in the "Miscellaneous Writings" of earlier years there had been the distinct presage of high and enduring reputation. There are among them specimens of character-painting and of dialogue, of the ludicrous and the pathetic, which are hardly surpassed in their kind by corresponding passages in "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

10. — *The History of Massachusetts. The Colonial Period.* By JOHN STETSON BARRY. Boston: Phillips, Sampson, & Co. 1855. 16mo. pp. 516.

THIS is but the first of a series of volumes in preparation by the author. It embraces the history of Massachusetts from its discovery by European voyagers to the union of the territories of Massachusetts (the Bay Colony), Plymouth, and Maine under the "Province charter" in 1692. It lacks no characteristic needed to win for the finished work a place among the standard histories that do honor to our country and our age. As to the fundamental merit of accuracy, the best authorities have been uniformly consulted and carefully collated; conflicting testimonies have been weighed with judicial impartiality; and, on points that must remain doubtful, the entire sum of extant evidence is given. In the next essential of personal interest in his subject, the author manifests an enthusiasm, fervent, but not blinding. He reveres, without worshipping, our Puritan ancestors. He beholds in them men of lofty courage, firm principle, and faith worthy of the primitive ages, but does not see in them "gods in the likeness of men." He admires them enough to make the most of their kingly and priestly elements of character, but not enough to deny their frailties, or to ascribe to them preternatural insight and foresight. As a specimen of the discriminating judgment which marks the entire volume, we quote the following paragraph with reference to the provisional constitution adopted on board the Mayflower.

"While, on the one hand, much eloquence has been expended in expatiating on this compact, as if in the cabin of the Mayflower had consciously, and for the first time, been discovered, in an age of Cimmerian darkness, the true principles of republicanism and equality, — on the other hand, it has been asserted that the Pilgrims were 'actuated by the most daring ambition,' and that, even at this early period, they designed to erect a government absolutely independent of the mother country. But the truth seems to be, that, although the form of government adopted by the emigrants was republican in its character,

and remarkably liberal, at the same time its founders acknowledged suitable allegiance to England, and regarded themselves as connected with the land of their nativity by political and social ties, both enduring and endearing. Left to themselves in a wilderness land, apart from all foreign aid, and thrown upon their own resources, with none to help or advise, they adopted that course which commended itself to their calm judgment as the simplest and best ; and if, under such circumstances, their compact was democratic, it seems chiefly to intimate that self-government is naturally attractive to the mind, and is spontaneously resorted to in emergencies like the present. It is as unwise to flatter our ancestors by ascribing to them motives different from those which themselves professed, as it is unjust to prefer charges against them to which they are not obnoxious. They were honest, sincere, and God-fearing men ; humble in their circumstances, and guided by their own judgment ; but endowed with no singular prophetic vision, and claiming no preternatural political sagacity. They could penetrate the future no further than to confide in the justice of God and the power of truth. The latter they knew must ultimately prevail, for the former was pledged to secure its triumph." — pp. 84, 85.

We are gratified to find that Mr. Barry does ample justice to the worth and services of Roger Conant, than whom the infant Colonies had no better man, but some of whose virtues were so far beyond his age as to have failed with his contemporaries of so emphatic a recognition as is beginning to be awarded by their posterity. He was, no doubt, a Puritan in faith, and a man of the severest sanctity in morals, but evidently was less afraid of Episcopacy than his first associates, and cherished other sentiments than those of aversion and loathing for the ritual and liturgy of the English Church. Indeed, it seems highly probable that, both at Cape Ann, and at Naumkeag before the arrival of Endicott, the religious services performed under his auspices were in accordance with the worship of the Established Church ; and, if this were the case, it may account for the degree to which a man of so much energy, discretion, and experience was suffered to fall into retirement and obscurity.

We are glad that the work undertaken by Mr. Barry has been left unattempted until now. There has been no previous time, when numerous omissions or inaccuracies would not have been inevitable. But the labors of the last few years on public documents, local traditions, and family records have accumulated for the state historiographer materials which almost oppress him with their copiousness, and which, though far from settling all questions of interest and moment, oftener leave doubt from the discrepancy than from the silence of witnesses. In this field, the harvesters have been so numerous and zealous, that the gleanings which yet remain can be of comparatively little value. It was well, then, that we should hitherto have depended for the past for-

tunes of our State on compends and monographs ; and it is well now that we should possess a permanent and voluminous history, which may, indeed, in future editions demand the correction of some of its details, but can hardly need to be reconstructed in any essential portion. Hoping, if not before, on the publication of the remaining volumes, to take such extended notice of this work as it claims and merits, we will only add, that the style is worthy of the subject, chaste, unambitious, free from offensive mannerisms, and neither obscure by over-conciseness, nor wearisome by prolixity.

11. — *The History of Dublin, N. H., containing the Address by CHARLES MASON, and the Proceedings at the Centennial Celebration, July 17, 1852 ; with a Register of Families.* Boston. 1855. 8vo. pp. 433.

MORE than a fourth part of this volume is occupied with the services, public and festive, at the Centennial Celebration, and the residue is precisely what a town-history ought to be, containing everything which it can be of any use or interest to have in permanent record, — lists of town and church officers, of the owners and occupants of estates, and of the members of trades and professions, collections under appropriate heads of traditions and anecdotes, and a genealogical register as complete as it could be made of all the families that have ever lived within the precincts of the town, together with numerous portraits of its eminent natives and leading citizens. Dublin has the distinction of containing within its limits a large portion of the Monadnock Mountain. Its central village is “set upon a hill,” being little less than two thousand feet above the ocean, and at considerably more than half the height of Monadnock itself. It occupies the water-shed between the Connecticut and the Merrimac, and the droppings of the sanctuary for many years found their way from the opposite sides of the roof through different rivers to the ocean. The territory of Dublin, attractive in the highest degree to lovers of the picturesque, offered in regard to soil and climate but few inducements to early settlers ; yet it has maintained a rank among the very first of our New England towns as to the intelligence, virtue, and prosperity of its inhabitants, the liberal support of educational and religious institutions, and the number of choice men and noble women all over the country who claim it as their birthplace. It need be no secret that this volume has been compiled by Rev. Levi W. Leonard, D.D., Senior Pastor of the First Church in Dublin,